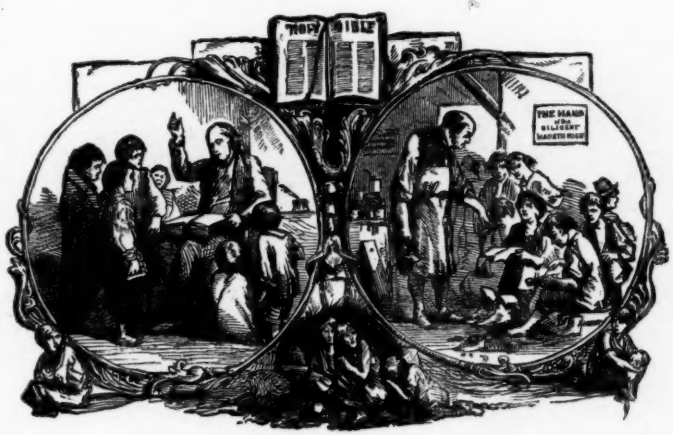
NEW SERIES.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. 8. AUGUST, 1874. VOL. I.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The thanks of the Committee are hereby presented to Mrs. Reade, for her usual monthly parcel of new clothing.

To Managers and Superintendents of Ragged Schools.

Honest, Truthful Lads, from 14 to 17 years of age,

ABLE TO READ AND WRITE A LITTLE,

CAN OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT ONCE

IN THE CITY MESSENGER BRIGADE.

Gentlemen connected with Ragged Schools, and interested in the welfare of special cases coming under the above description, will please desire the Lads to call with one or both parents any evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, at Hope Place Mission Schools, World's End, Bull Lane, Stepney.

Enquiry should be made for Mr. J. Hawkins, the Inspector of City Messenger Brigade.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, &c., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

Friendless and Fallen.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Notwithstanding the great increase in the cost of all household necessaries, coals, &c., the Committee did not restrict their operations in any way during 1873.

SUMMARY.

To Open-all-Night Refuge, 891 admitted in 1873.
To Preventive Homes, 112 ditto.
To Reformatory Homes, 304 ditto.
Income, 1872, £5,924; income, 1873, £5,614; decrease, 1873, £310.
Increased expenses of Homes in 1873, £232.
£12 10s. (Donation of) will sustain all the Homes one day.

Reader, Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C., and Francis Nicholls, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., will thankfully receive CONTRIBUTIONS; or

EDWARD W. THOMAS, Secretary,
200, Euston Road, N.W.

HERTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL
AND
CHILDREN'S MISSION.

The building at present used has become altogether inadequate to the requirements of the Mission, and the Committee are desirous of enlarging it. Part of the required sum, viz., £100, has been subscribed, but the Committee cannot proceed to the work, as they are resolved not to contract future anxiety by incurring a debt; they therefore earnestly and respectfully solicit Donations for the above-named object, which will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., George Armatage, Bank, Hertford.

RAGGED SCHOOL FLOWER SHOWS.

THOUGH every Ragged School was primarily organised with the view to evangelise the outcast or destitute classes, yet most are as remarkable for their social as for their spiritual operations. Some of the almost unique agencies employed were briefly described in our number for July, and they fully showed that our workers are as noticeable for their "common sense" as for their spiritual wisdom. Our space precluded a reference to one operation which forms a prominent feature of a few Ragged Schools—we allude to those Ragged School FLOWER SHOWS which are the fruits of steady and thoughtful window gardening.

Now a flower show in London may well strike a provincial with amazement; for he can only think of this great city as one of smoke, and dirt, and noise; and where the worthiest of its citizens are so absorbed by bread-winning as to have but little time to notice, much less to cultivate, those fragile floral beauties which almost a moth could crush. Yet he has but to visit Victoria Park, Hackney—eminently the *people's* park—to find that, though it is environed by tall factory chimneys which perpetually vomit out poisons, yet that it can produce flowers of the most exquisite form, hue, and odour. It is thus seen that it only requires the will for any thorough worker to discover the way.

Nor need we be surprised that the love of flowers is as powerful in our smoky towns as in localities more favoured as respects light and air. The passion is of Divine origin, for it was implanted by our great Creator when he placed our ancestor in Eden "to dress it and to keep it." The love of flowers, then, may be regarded as one of the remnants of Paradise, and the feeling can never become extinct so long as any simple tastes remain. No wonder, then, that when a poor scholar of Golden Lane Ragged School, out with the annual excursion, saw a wild marigold growing for the first time, she stooped down and kissed it, and exclaimed, "O, I do love oo so!"

For the most remarkable specimens of flowers grown to perfection, we should not take our country cousins to the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, but rather to one of the flower shows which have been held by London Ragged Schools. From their

beneficial social influence we could wish their name was "Legion;" but sufficient has been done to show what may be achieved by painstaking labour and thus to stimulate other Ragged Schools to copy the precedent.

It is scarcely needful to enumerate all the Ragged Schools which have held successful flower shows. The most noticeable were those held in Nichol Street, Bethnal Green; Chequer Alley, St. Luke's; and Lamb and Flag Court, Clerkenwell—all in the very heart of ragged London. Yet their specimens vied in beauty with those exhibited in the Ragged Schools of Rufford's Buildings, Islington, and Grafton Mews, Fitzroy Square; which are planted in localities not so thickly populated, and consequently in healthier districts.

In every case the prizes were awarded by gardeners of great reputation, who gave their services as a labour of love. As one result, as there was no favouritism, no envy was excited in the hearts of those who failed. Rather they were heartened up to comply in future window-gardening with the lesson taught by their favourite school melody,—

"If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try, try again."

On the 1st of July ult., following the custom of other years, a most successful Flower Show was held in Rochester Place Ragged School, Kentish Town, to the cottages of which small gardens are attached. Among the flowers reared by scholars were aristocratic geraniums, calceolarias and fuchsias, as well as lowly creeping-jennys and house-leeks. But not the least pleasing part of the exhibition were the bouquets of wild flowers tastefully arranged by the elder children. About one hundred exhibited cultivated or wild flowers. The prizes were too small in amount to appeal to covetousness, the largest being only three shillings and sixpence, and the bulk as low as threepence. Round the schoolroom there was arranged a fine display of exotics and evergreens from the conservatories of Baroness Burdett Coutts, Lady Bodkin, &c. But splendid as they were, and appealing as they did to every sense, they did not outvie the humbler specimens of our poor young friends.

On June 29th a similar exhibition, under the title of window gardening, was held in Dean's Yard, Westminster. This, which has been quite an institution in the district for the past nine

years, has caused the windows of many of the semi-hovels of Westminster to look quite gay in summer—has, in fact, brought a ray of moral sunshine into many a weary heart. Some few have enclosed their flower-pots with a small green wooden rail, with a movable gate, which causes many a sighing reminiscence in those who have come from the country, and who have fallen low in the life-struggles of London. The prizes were competed for by labouring men and women, as well as by the scholars of the Ragged, Sunday, and National Schools of the notorious "Devil's Acre." The prizes consisted of handsomely bound books, and of sums of money ranging from one shilling and sixpence to six shillings. The cost was defrayed by a sum of one shilling charged to the more aristocratic visitors. Lord Shaftesbury, who is never happier than when presiding at such exhibitions, presented the prizes with many a kindly word.

Two out of the many benefits incident to such floral shows may be indicated, in the hope that our sketch may serve to induce other Ragged Schools to copy so praiseworthy an example. It is, doubtless, too late in the season for any Ragged School to hold such a flower show this year, but it is neither too late nor too early to *prepare* for such an exhibition in 1875.

One of the most striking lessons—the practical part, in fact, of a true flower sermon—received by these window gardeners, has been the duty of personal and home cleanliness. They soon perceive that, if the flowers are to grow healthy, or to escape the stigma of being "spindly," they must be kept free from dirt, and inhale the best air procurable. This has taught them that they, too, if they would grow up strong and healthy, must well air bedroom and sitting-room, and not be afraid of water. This led the Lamb and Flag Ragged School to offer, as a part of their flower show, prizes for tidy or clean rooms. Many, we are glad to say, became prize-winners in this attempt at wholesome homes. This feature we beg to commend to all our friends who may be led to institute prizes for window gardening.

Another benefit of these Ragged School Flower Shows is, that they have brought together classes widely separated by social distinctions, and who know as little of each other as a Hindoo does of Timbuctoo. The sympathy thus displayed by the rich to the poor, like the Ragged School system generally, has evoked a spirit of sympathy in the one case, and of gratitude in the other,

the value of which cannot be exaggerated. Lord Shaftesbury, for example, has often related this instance of confidence on the part of a poor little exhibitor at the Westminster Flower Show: "As I mixed among the exhibitors I felt a little hand playing with mine, and a little girl looked up in my face and said, 'Please, sir, may I give you a kiss?' I said, 'I am sure you may, my dear, and I'll give you one too!'" Well, then, might our noble President say, when he presented the prizes in Dean's Yard last month:—"I believe that in nothing is the goodness of God more shown to them than in the gift of flowers. I am satisfied that, for the moral, intellectual, and spiritual instruction of the people, he knew nothing more beautiful, more true, or more improving than the minute study of God's most beautiful and gentle works; and flowers might be made the noblest means of improving the condition of the working people and elevating the sentiments and hearts of all."

EXCURSIONS.—THE TEACHERS' AND CHILDREN'S.

I. The annual *fête* for the second time kindly given to the 100 girls of the King Edward's Certified Industrial School, by the Treasurer, H. R. Williams, Esq., took place at his residence, Park Lodge, Highgate, on Wednesday, July 8. At the same time and place was a garden party of a large number of the friends and managers of the school, with the Committee and Officers of the Ragged School Union. The day was pleasantly spent in the beautifully undulating grounds of the house. The weather was all that could be desired; if by some thought a little too hot, they found cool refreshing shade beneath wide-spreading trees and avenues of leafy roof. A cold collation and tea were served to the company in a marquee. Mr. Williams took the opportunity of giving an epitome of the school's history and usefulness. The full complement of girls was now in the institution. Everything had been done to make the buildings in all their details satisfactory. The state of the finances showed a good balance on the right side, and there was a prospect of much usefulness resulting from the labours of the managers. At present the institution, on its present footing, was too young to be able to report the results of the training, for although many applications had been made to take some of the girls as servants, yet it was thought proper to give the girls a longer training before they made a new start in life.

After tea the girls were assembled, and some medals, the gift of the indefatigable Secretary, J. H. Lloyd, Esq., were distributed by Mrs. Piper for the following good and sufficient reasons:—5 for general good conduct; 2 for trustworthiness; 1 for neatness; 1 for good qualities as a nurse; and 1 was elected by general acclamation as the "Honour Girl" of the school. The possession of these medals, it was stated, constituted the recipients the monitors of the school, and if held the twelve months would bear a money value.

Two of the friends present were requested to say a few words of counsel and encouragement to them before leaving. Mr. Gent spoke to them on "Character, its formation, its value;" and Professor Tomlinson spoke to them on "Plants and flowers, their uses and abuses."

The National Anthem brought a plesant day, spent in a beautifully undulating garden, to a close; not, however, before expressing special thanks to the kind and generous host, hostess, and family.

II. The whole of the masters and mistresses of the London Ragged Schools were invited to spend a day with the Committee of the Ragged School Union in Bushey Park and Hampton Court Palace. Saturday, July 11th, was the day fixed. The company was conveyed by train from Waterloo to Teddington. The morning was enjoyable, and the walk under the chesnut trees through the park seemed unusually sweet and pleasant; the racing and gambols of the deer, with their little ones, added greatly to the charm. The marquee being reached, a few hymns were sung in the open by the company, and then Mr. Gent explained the day's programme by stating that all were now at liberty to go where they liked and spend the day as they pleased, provided that all would gather in the marquee for a cold collation at 1.30 p.m., and for tea at 5 o'clock. At these times the large marquee was filled by a company of more than 200 persons. After tea Mr. Miller spoke a few words of pleasantry to the assembly, and then asked them to join with him in thanks to Mr. Gent for all the care and attention he gave that day to secure their comfort, and for the interest he takes generally in the teachers' welfare. Mr. Round, on behalf of his fellow-teachers, responded in a short address upon the subject, and the thanks were voted and presented. Mr. Gent acknowledged the kindness, and said that he accepted their cordial thanks on behalf of his Committee, whose interest was unflagging in promoting the well-being and comfort of the teachers.

Just as the company were dispersing, and a full third had left the marquee, some big drops of rain began to fall, followed by a flash of lightning, and with it a fearful crash of thunder. It was clear danger was nigh. In front the arm of a great tree came down, and near

by the end of the marquee another tree was riven from top to bottom by a double stream of the electric fluid. Fortunately, no one was under either tree. Those who sought shelter from the rain under trees hastily ran for that of the marquee. The rain fell in torrents for more than half an hour, and though the marquee made a capital umbrella, yet the rain soon flooded the floor of it. By means of the table tops laid on the grass the company was raised above the water. As soon as the storm was over the company returned to the station, and with the exception of wet feet, little or no harm was sustained.

III. Friday, July 17th, was the day fixed for giving a holiday to the day school children belonging to those schools that were too poor to be able to give a day in the country to their scholars. Fifteen schools shared in the festivities of the day, sending about 1,200 children, in charge of about 70 teachers. A special train from Broad Street, taking up also at Highbury and Camden Road, carried ten of the schools, mostly from the east of London, to Teddington for Hampton Court Palace. Another train from Waterloo carried three schools from Southwark and Westminster, and the remainder were conveyed by coach road in vans. The fund needful for the purpose was specially raised by issuing a short letter of appeal written by Lord Shaftesbury, of which the following is a copy:—

"*London, June* 4, 1874.

"May I repeat my customary appeal, at this season of the year, in aid of a fund to provide the children of many of the Ragged Schools with an excursion into the country?

"The moral and physical benefits of such an enjoyment are now so fully admitted that I need not dwell on them.

"Your obedient servant,

"SHAFTESBURY.

"Contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Mr. Joseph G. Gent, at 1, Exeter Hall, W.C."

The fund raised was sufficient to pay all expenses, including fruit and toys. The day was pleasantly spent without, as far as known, a single mishap. The enjoyment to the children seemed intense, and when the time came for the return journey, there were evident signs of wishing the day could be stretched to include more than its usual number of hours, and the sun, once more, made to stand still awhile. The long line of march was formed in good time and the trains reached, to leave the station at eight o'clock, and all arrived well at home by half-past nine.

SCHOOL AGENT'S WORK.

No. 2.—North and East.

From Mr. Curtis's Fourteenth Annual Report we make the following extracts, to show the state of the schools under his visitation:—

In the North and East there are seventy-nine institutions.

During the year I paid the following

Visits.

To Sunday Schools, 141; Day Schools, 405; Night Schools, 180; Conferences, 130; Local Committees, 6; Public Meetings, 9; Parents' Meetings, 2; Services of Song, 3. Total, 876.

With Messrs. Mounstephen and Tabrum I attended the various meetings held at the Sunday School Union, Old Bailey, of the Joint Committees of the Ragged School Union, Sunday School Institute, and Sunday School Union, the object of which was to organise an opposition for the prevention of the repeal of an Act of Parliament of 1869, which empowered parochial authorities to exempt from taxation Ragged and Sunday Schools.

Alterations, Enlargements, or Removals.

Colchester Street School, in consequence of the expiration of lease, has removed to Pell Street, St. George's East. Gloucester Hall, Philpot Street Mission, is now conducted in the Phœnix Hall, Commercial Road. Haggerston School, contiguous to the railway station, is now removed to Brownlow Street, Queen's Road, to premises much better. Morton Road has erected a substantial and handsome mission-room, class-rooms, lavatory, etc. Hamilton Place has taken the house in the rear of the school, and made other alterations to give space and ventilation. Hope Place, Stepney, has pulled down, rebuilt, and reconstructed a portion of its premises, to give increased accommodation and good ventilation for its teeming numbers; it has also enlarged its Mission Hall, Burdett Road, providing vestries and rooms for conference. Wentworth Street put its drains and offices into a thoroughly good sanitary condition: this was a work of considerable time and expense; by it a room on the basement has been gained for teaching purposes. George Yard has hired a room in Wentworth Street, abutting on Osborn Street, for mission purposes, and increased the light and ventilation of its main room. Spicer Street put its premises into a sanitary condition. Sermon Lane increased its light and improved the premises. Homerton doubled the size of its room, and hired a house opposite to carry out special mission work. Nichol Street rented additional premises to meet its school requirements. Lamb Court put up a spacious tent on a waste piece of ground in the Farringdon Road, in which for several months services were held every evening in the week. Union Walk hired additional premises, and Hammond Square has now, happily, the entire command of its own premises, the School Board school having removed to its new premises hard by.

New, Renewed, and Extended Operations.

Four Sunday Schools, 3 Sunday Morning Services, 4 Sunday Evening Services, 3 Bible Classes, 2 Open Air Services, 5 Services of Song and Singing Classes, 1 Juvenile Mission, 3 Mission Services, 1 Believers' Meeting, 1 Mothers' and 1 Fathers' Meeting, 1 Day School, 4 Night Schools, 1 Mutual Improvement Class, 2 Sewing Classes, 1 Juvenile Temperance Society, 1 Temperance Mission to Women, 1 Band of Hope, 1 Penny Bank, 1 Clothing Club, 2 Drum and Fife Bands, 2 Nurseries, 3 Coal Clubs, 1 Mutual Labour Loan Society, 2 Weekly Dinners, and 1 Sunday Morning Breakfast.

Sunday Schools

are conducted by 87 institutions. 40 schools meet in the morning, and are attended by 2,500; 70 meet in the afternoon, when the attendance is about 8,500; and 47 in the evening, which are attended by about 8,000. The united attendance of afternoon and evening scholars is about 16,500.

During the year some mission operations have been affiliated to the Union, and have received timely aid by a pecuniary grant, either for material or for the liquidation of debt.

Tottenham Place has a Sunday Afternoon School, attended by upwards of 90 children, taught by ten teachers. *Thrawl Street*, Spitalfields, 60 children and 6 teachers. *Mildmay Park*, 50 children and 7 teachers. *Mildmay Avenue*, 60 children and 7 teachers. These operations, though somewhat small, are well planted and well conducted.

Hammond Square being in a declining state through a lack of funds and a paucity of teachers, was urged by me to transfer the institution to some church capable of working it efficiently: this has been done. It is now managed by friends from Hare Court, Canonbury; the School Board having vacated the premises, they have now a clear stage for their varied operations. Some fear was entertained that the Sunday Evening School would not work well with the Adult Mission. I pressed the importance of the juvenile work, and happily with success—they are proceeding together, and both flourishing.

The whole of the Sabbath day, and every week-evening except Saturday, are occupied with useful operations. The institution is largely indebted to Mr. Woolcott, whose self-denying labours are most unwearied.

Northey Street, Limehouse, through its amalgamation with a Wesleyan Church, has experienced a revival; the most zealous efforts are put forth among a big and rough class of both sexes: the teaching power is good in quantity and quality, and the order capital. The School Board meet here on week-days, but the committee have wisely secured their evenings.

Nichol Street, owing to the pressure of numbers, has hired additional premises; here may be seen of a Sabbath evening upwards of 1,100 children. The school arrangements comprise class teaching for the elder boys and girls, and services for the younger. The addresses are so good and so pertinent that the children are almost spell-bound.

To increase its Sunday attendance, *Denzell Street* held a Parents' Tea Meeting; the result has been encouraging.

Union Walk hired additional premises for the comfort of increasing numbers, and also for the purpose of a Sunday Evening School.

Hamilton Place has added to its space, and yet finds the room too strait. It has a band of enthusiastic workers.

Darby Street, Mint Street, has an attendance of 200. This is a most difficult school to manage. The superintendent, Mr. Hall, is quite equal to the onerous task. The teachers, who come from the Weigh House, support him nobly.

Elder Walk, now *Britannia Row*, has a large and flourishing school. The attendance in their new premises has doubled. The superintendent is able and enthusiastic. Conversion or effective spiritual impression is incessantly aimed at, and as a necessary consequence with marked results.

Hope Place, Stepney, still holds a foremost place among Sunday Evening Schools. It has an attendance of between 700 and 800 boys and girls. There is class-teaching in one large room, the others are for the most part gathered into separate rooms for services. A spirit of enthusiasm prevails everywhere. Dr. Bernardo's wife conducts a class of girls, numbering 90, in a separate room, whose ages vary from fourteen to twenty years.

Colchester Street School has been removed to *Pell Street*. It is still under the management of Mr. Whybrow, who for twenty-two years has so conducted it as to entitle it to be considered a model school. The school meeting on Sunday afternoon does not close till five o'clock, and even then the children seem unwilling to go.

Buck's Row, Chicksand Street, and *Brunswick Street* have, at my instance, established a Sunday Evening Service. *King Edward Street* continues to prosper under its able superintendent, Mr. Montague. The operations at *Vine Street, London Street, Old Castle Street*, and *Whetstone Park*, have closed during the year. *Old Castle Street*, through financial pressure, has gone over to the Board entirely. It ceases entirely as a mission agency. Such a collapse is deplorable.

The condition of *Bluegate Fields* requires some notice. It succumbed in consequence of a cutting of the Eastern Railway through its street. The treasurer, Mr. Woolfe, has obtained about £500. Part of this sum goes to liquidate a debt of over £100, the remainder possibly at some future time will go towards the support of an amalgamated operation in the neighbourhood.

As a rule, the schools are characterised by good teaching and good discipline. Those that devote time and attention to Senior Bible Classes are rewarded by additions to their teaching power.

Some schools there are which are occasionally troubled by a very turbulent class, of which Hatfield and Wentworth Street are conspicuous. I would suggest that some aid be given by this Society, either as a payment to doorkeepers in turbulent districts, or as a yearly reward to such doorkeepers as maintain the best order. In some schools a collection is made among the teachers every Sunday night for the payment of this officer. If aid were given towards the payment of doorkeepers, some committees might be encouraged to venture on a Sunday Evening School or Service.

It is, however, pleasant to relate that, despite a deficiency of teachers, there has been an increase of spiritual life. A conviction has been realised

that the conversion of children is possible. Not by sensational means, but faith, working by love, has brought many children to Jesus in Golden Lane, Britannia Row, Castle Street, Hope Place, Menotti Street, Homerton, &c.

Prayer Meetings

are held by 60 institutions, with a united attendance, consisting of teachers and scholars, of 2,500. The greater part are held monthly, some fortnightly, and others weekly.

Nichol Street holds fortnightly Prayer Meetings for scholars and teachers alternately. *Kingsland* has also fortnightly Prayer Meetings, largely attended by parents, in addition to teachers and scholars.

Day Schools

were conducted for the greater part of the year by 40 institutions. One of these has closed, one has become a cheap pay school, and one has been transferred to the London School Board.

Board Schools are held in twenty Ragged School buildings, and in two others cheap pay schools are conducted.

The Free Day Schools may be thus detailed:—Boys', 9; girls', 10; mixed and infants', 35; total, 54. Attendance, 5,696. These are taught by seventy-one teachers, who are aided by 186 paid monitors.

Some schools complain of the loss of their more intelligent children, these having been singled out for attack and driven into Board Schools; at the same time, a quantity of moral refuse has been swept in: of this we are very glad, for in dealing with such our institutions are put to their proper use, and our teachers to their proper work. There is a residuum which can be better dealt with by spiritual than by secular forces, and for the sake of such the retention of our Week Day Schools is desirable.

It may be stated as a proof of the capability and capacity of some of our recent teachers, that all who sat last Christmas, with one exception, obtained certificates, most of them being second class.

Of those who remain, the greater part are intelligent and capable; and if not overnumbered and are generously aided, they will accomplish more than any ordinary School Board teacher, but for some time to come such raw material as they have to deal with will prevent the attainment of secular efficiency according to the Government standard. Their age and other circumstances oppose an insuperable barrier to the attainment of certificates; nevertheless, their loss as teachers of poor children would be a calamity.

George Yard intends, by generous help to its invaluable master, Mr. G. Holland, to so increase its teaching power as to render its position impregnable as a Free Christian School for the very poor.

Wentworth Street has just engaged one of our ablest teachers for the same purpose.

Rochester Place Day School was at the point of extinction, but a new and tried teacher has restored it to vitality. The committee are much gratified with her tact, ability, and loving-kindness.

Several schools have availed themselves of the increased aid granted by

the Ragged School Union towards the payment of teachers and monitors; and others have profited by the timely grant of school material.

During the year I examined forty-two schools. Number of children present, 5,696; number examined, 3,259. The following is the result:—In reading, 858 passed as good, 420 as moderate, and 563 fair; total, 1841. In writing, 566 passed as good, 502 as moderate, and 711 as fair; total, 1,779. In Scripture, 730 good, 640 moderate; total, 1,370. In tables: multiplication, 888; money, 480. In notation, three figures, 1,240; four, &c., 727. In arithmetic, simple to long division, 1st, 1618; 2nd, 906; 3rd, 821; 4th, 498; 5th, 235. Compound rules, 1st, 257; 2nd, 209; 3rd, 181; 4th, 114; 5th, 65; and 5 rule of three.

Night Schools

are held by forty-seven institutions. There are 26 boys' schools, 31 girls, and 16 mixed; total, 73. Twenty-one of these are conducted by voluntary teachers; thirteen by paid teachers, aided by voluntary helpers; and thirty-nine by paid teachers assisted by monitors. Number of paid teachers, 52; ditto voluntary, 240.

Pell Street, *Northey Street*, and *Kingsland*, have resumed evening work. *Vincent Street*, *Thrawl Street*, *Tottenham Square*, and *Mildmay Park*, are new operations. *London Street*, *Whetstone Park*, and *Bell Alley*, are extinct operations. *Ratcliffe Square* and *King Edward Street* Night Schools were temporarily suspended. *Nichol Street* carries the palm for attendance, some five or six hundred being frequently present. *Castle Street*, although not so large a school, is distinguished like it by having an adequate attendance of refined and cultivated teachers. *Hornsey Road*, *Rochester Place*, *Wentworth Street*, *Stratford*, and *Somers Town* are attended by a very rough class.

In rough Night Schools, besides a capable master for maintaining discipline, voluntary teachers are indispensable to the performance of efficient work.

There is no doubt a feeling springing up in some quarters, even among our own friends, that an efficient provision has been made by the London School Board for the secular education of all classes, both in Day and Night Schools.

As regards Night Schools, and even some day scholars, this is unquestionably incorrect, for there is a large number of boys and girls—rude in strength, coarse in manner, and of low mental power—whom Board Schools would not care to have. Neither night scholars nor those below a certain age come under the rule of compulsion.

A large number of persons of adult age are incapable of reading. Schools for such might be provided, and if satisfactorily conducted might be aided by this Union. In such schools the minimum must be low.

Ignorant boys and girls, and also adults, have so little desire to learn, or shrink so much from the mental mechanical drudgery of acquiring the rudiments of knowledge, that they need to be attracted. Hence there should be plenty of light and warmth, and the school monotony should be broken by evenings of entertainments—dissolving views, recitations, and songs.

In very many of our churches there are persons gifted with the power to amuse and instruct, whose help in this direction would be of incalculable good.

In any future meeting of delegates or superintendents the points of ordinary Night Schools and Schools for Adults might be laid before them, especially as it was an *understood condition* under the new scheme that for an institution to be eligible for aid, some attention should be given in the week evenings to *secular work*.

Mr. Green's Catechetical System.

This gentleman, long impressed with the indefinite notions of divine truth entertained by young persons and adults, has sought to remedy this by a return to the catechetical system of Dr. Watts. Mr. Green, through his agent, has introduced and tried his system in several schools. Prose statement, and song in harmony with the statement, are interblended.

Albert Street, *King Edward Street*, *Lester Place*, and *Saffron Hill* show what may be done with very ignorant children in a very short time.

Children's Churches.

There are twenty of these in my districts, with an attendance of 1,500. Some are conducted on Sunday morning, after the usual school; some are held instead of a school, owing to a paucity of teachers. Others are held on Sunday evening, when a school would be better; and some on week evenings. Those children who give indications of seriousness, and are of an age to be so dealt with, are taken apart for conversation.

Ragged Churches,

or Mission Institutions, are held in connection with forty-four schools, with an attendance of 4,335. To one of these,—viz., *The Vinegar Ground*—Mr. Marchant gave a large reading desk and Bible, and a hymn-book and Bible to each big boy and girl.

A Service of Song

is held in five institutions. Of these *Kingsland* deserves especial mention. During the past year it has been a very important feature of their work. A weekly practice of the children, and a monthly entertainment for the parents, have been held.

Open-air Services and Lodging-house Services are made attractive by bands of singers. *Golden Lane*, *George Yard*, and *Lamb and Flag* Schools, are conspicuous for the use of melody in these services.

Tract Distribution

and lodging-house visitation are combined at eleven institutions. Some of these have a Juvenile Tract Brigade.

Missionaries and Bible Women

are employed in connection with nineteen institutions.

A Temperance Mission Woman

has been appointed by *George Yard*, whose duties are to look after inebriate girls and mothers in the street and at their homes.

Penny Readings and Lectures.

These are continued from year to year by several of our institutions, and are a sample of what may be done by Christian people for the innocent amusement of poor people, who are thus taught that religion does not frown on amusement but on *sin*.

Bands of Hope,

numbering twenty-seven, with 2,750 members, are still conducted. Senior Bands of Hope are also established in three schools, which lead on through youth to manhood across the most difficult tract in life.

Flower Shows,

owing mainly to the fact of their being taken up on a large scale—that is, by districts and parishes—are not so common as formerly; still there are some that cling to the old love. Among these is *Kentish Town*, who held a very successful one during the past year.

The exhibition was presided over by the Rev. E. White. The exhibitors were 100. The flowers consisted of geraniums, fuchsias, calceolarias, &c. The prizes varied from 3d. to 3s. 6d.

Infant Nurseries.

Lamb and Flag and *Holloway* each established one this year. Holloway provides for fifteen, and Lamb and Flag for twelve. *Chequer Alley* also provides for twenty, and *Field Lane* for fifty. Chequer Alley sent some of the little ones, and in one case the mother also, to the seaside. The change was needed.

Weekly Lectures

are given in several places. Among several, *Golden Lane*, Old Street, St. Luke's, is conspicuous. The following winter course deserves quotation:—

Lectures and Entertainments at the Golden Lane Costermongers' Mission Hall, 124, Golden Lane, Old Street, St. Luke's, E.C., every Tuesday evening. President—The Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

Nov. 18, 1873.—Elocutionary Entertainment by the Milton Class.
,, 25.—"The Day of Rest"—with Dissolving Views by the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association.
Dec. 2.—"Fables and Facts"—with Dissolving Views, by Mr. Orsman.
,, 9.—Concert by the Bloomsbury Choral Society for Costers' Fund.
,, 16.—Free Entertainment by the Golden Temperance Glee Party.
Christmas Day.—Free Dinner and Tea for 400 poor deserving persons if funds permit. Dissolving Views on the Life of our Lord at 7 p.m.
Dec. 30.—Free Tea Party for aged persons above sixty years; afterwards Mr. Orsman's beautiful Dissolving Views.
,, 31.—Watch Night Service at 10.30; preceded by the Members and Workers' Annual Tea Meeting.
Jan. 5, 1874.—Mission Club Tea Meeting; free to paid-up members only.
,, 12.—School Children's New Year's Festival.
,, 19.—"Rome," with Dissolving Views, &c., by Mr. Orsman.
,, 26.—Concert by the Golden Choral Class—eighty singers.

Feb. 3.—Adam's Ale, with Chemical Experiments by Walter Hobbs.
,, 10.—The Overland Route, with Dissolving Views by Mr. Orsman.
,, 17.—Golden Band of Hope Entertainment.
,, 24.—Elocutionary Readings by the Milton Class.
Mar. 3. } Mr. T. Twining's short course of Lectures on Science Made Easy,
,, 10. } for working men, with numerous experiments.
,, 17. }
,, 24. }
,, 31.—Heroes of the Bible, with Dissolving Views by W. J. O.
April 7.—Talk and Talkers, by Mr. W. J. Denniss.

W. J. ORSMAN, *Superintendent.*

Fox Court gives weekly Lectures to parents and children alternately. Their programme consisted of lectures to adults on the vowels, "A, E, I, O, U;" to children on "Coal;" a meeting of the Juvenile Sabbath Union and Service of Song; entertainment for adults; a lecture to children on "An Hour in a Beehive," and a lecture to adults on "A Cup of Tea."

Chequer Alley is also conspicuous for its lectures.

CHILDREN'S DINNERS,

through the agency of the Children's Dinner Society, are still continued in twenty-four schools, towards which the children pay a trifle.

Brewers' Court is supplied with free dinners from a fund called the Needy Work Fund, gathered by an appeal in the *Times:* about 280 children are supplied weekly with a dinner of Irish stew, the surplus going to adult poor. *Lester Place*, largely aided by Miss Tucker and other kind friends, supplies a good soup dinner to seventy children weekly. *Golden Lane* (Mr. Orsman's), during the winter supplies four or five hundred dinners weekly. *St. Giles's* gives a most sumptuous entertainment of roast beef and potatoes to over three hundred children weekly, in the large room of their refuge, Great Queen Street. In the various schools about 4,000 meals are supplied weekly.

COAL CLUBS.

This year the famine price of coals led Messrs. Bernardo and Orsman, of *Hope Place* and *Golden Lane*, to establish depôts for the supply of coals to the very needy poor at the rate of 7lbs. for one penny, and a quarter cwt. for 3d. No one receives more than 56 lbs. weekly. The sale and distribution is under rigid supervision.

SITUATIONS FOR SCHOLARS.

Thousands of boys and girls have, through the interest of their teachers, obtained an introduction to situations of usefulness and respectability.

The following particulars relating to this matter, in connection with the Hackney Juvenile Mission, will be read with interest:—

"Forty of the scholars have had situations found for them. This we consider a matter of the highest importance. They cannot be reformed unless they break off old habits. It is next to impossible for a young person to lead a moral life if left to grow up in idleness, or depending upon odd jobs in the street, which too often means get what you can, never

mind how or whose. Many lads have become pilferers and criminals, through having nothing to do. Many have been lost for want of some Christian friend to take them by the hand. Feeling this, our manager, Mr. John Newman, has gone to a number of City houses, endeavouring to get situations for the boys and girls who seem to be deserving.

Thirty of these are doing well, as will be seen by the following extracts from a number of letters received.

One employer writes: "I am pleased to inform you that the little boy and three girls you were kind enough to send me are doing very well. They are very attentive to their work, and behave well among the rest of the young people, and conduct themselves in a most satisfactory manner. I shall at all times have much pleasure in taking any from your school."

Another writes: "We find the lad you sent us industrious, intelligent, and very honest as far as we know. It is much to be regretted that he can neither read nor write."

Another testifies: "The young girl you were so kind as to recommend to us has turned out to our satisfaction. Should we want another, we shall have pleasure in applying to you again."

Another writes: "We have pleasure in stating that A. C. is giving satisfaction, being steady and industrious."

These are a few specimen extracts, which we are sure will be gratifying to all our friends. Who will venture to predict the future of these young persons who have received this fair start in life through the agency of our Mission? It would not be difficult to picture their future, if no friendly hand had been stretched forth to help them. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor."

Banks and Clubs.

There are fifty-nine Penny Banks, and some even take farthings. The depositors number about 16,000, and their deposits amount to £5,600. There are also Mothers' Sick and Clothing Clubs. Respecting one of these, Miss Cribbens, the superintendent, writes thus:—

"Our club has been carried on for sixteen years. Last week we closed the year with just 100 members, who each received 3s. 9d., their share of the surplus remaining after paying out for sickness, &c. It seemed like a gift, although their own money, and I am pleased to say some of it was brought back on the following Thursday to purchase articles at the sale. We have one mother who joined at the commencement, one who brings three daughters, and another who brings six."

Of Clubs, their name is legion, viz., Boot Clubs, Children's Sick Clubs, Adult Provident Clubs, Barrow and Donkey Clubs, in connection with the Emily Fund founded by Lord Shaftesbury in memory of his deceased lady. One of these, at Golden Lane, during the year has been eminently useful.

Industrial Classes

are thirty-six, in which 1,500 are taught plain needlework. In connection with one of these, held in the evening, the mistress states that the Needlework Class, which is now carried on every Friday, is a very necessary one,

for it is painful to see how the crochet-hook is preferred to the needle, and how little the latter is used by many of the very poor.

An Important Suggestion.

To get face to face with those boys and girls above the school age, who up to the present have been subject to no influences of a humanising or christianising character, I beg to repeat a suggestion, viz., that on some one night (the same) a tea should be provided in one or two schools in every part of London—east, west, north, and south—to which admission should be by tickets. These may be given away most liberally, as, all the teas taking place on the same night, and at the same hour, no one could attend in two places.

This tea should be, I think, *preceded* by an entertainment, as the feast to follow might be made a means to order. The great object of this gathering would be to bring the young people into our Sunday Night and Week Night Schools. To retain a hold of them, the entertainments from October to March should not be less than monthly, and the teas quarterly.

In Conclusion,

I beg to state that during the year I have promoted the establishment of Night Schools, Services of Song, Mission Services, and the transfer of an old and decaying institution to hands strong and capable, under whose revivifying touch the whole of the operations are infused with new life; aided schools in the selection of teachers, and have in a variety of other ways helped forward the work.

In the coming year much will have to be done to prevent the entire breaking up of institutions, and the extinction of a great religious force, in various neighbourhoods; as in several cases, where the Day School has closed the whole of the operations have perished.

All mission operations in London, whose work is among the poor—including, of course, children—should have some connection with us. With a view to such connection, the leaders of these missions might be invited to attend at the delegates' meeting; and, instead of one aggregate meeting, several might be held. A much larger attendance may thus be secured, and the influence of the Union be more widely diffused in the respective localities.

Much is still required to be done. Let not the School Board become a bugbear to frighten us out of our wits. In the great changes that are coming over society, there will be for many years to come a large amount of gross ignorance, and for a still longer time vice, crime, and poverty; an Act of Parliament is not a talisman to instantaneously change all these.

These giant evils must be met by men and women who have Christ in their hearts, and who are prepared to wield the sword of the Spirit valiantly.

The helping and encouraging of such is the special work of this Society, which has been signally blessed by God during the years of its existence. To all St. Paul's words come sounding along the ages with this trumpet-blast of encouragement: "Be ye therefore stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

THE WORKMEN'S CITY.

The Shaftesbury Park Estate.

In the concluding number of our last volume we gave particulars of the new township that was being formed on the forty acres of freehold land between Lavender Hill and the line of railway near Clapham Junction. At that time 350 houses had been erected, of the 1,200 to be eventually built; since that time 129 more have been completed, and 270 are in course of erection, and will, it is expected, be finished before winter, so that by the end of the year 749 of the 1,200 houses will be ready for occupation. The houses are of four classes:—1st class has 8 rooms for 10s. weekly; 2nd class, 7 rooms, 8s. weekly; 3rd class, 6 rooms, 6s. 9d. weekly; 4th class, 5 rooms, 5s. 9d. weekly, all inclusive of rates and taxes, except the best class. The houses can be bought for sums varying from £170 to £310 on 99 years' lease, at ground rents of £2 12s., £3 3s., £3 12s., and £4 4s. If the occupier of class 9 buys his house, he may agree to spread his payments of the purchase money (£170) over a period of 14 years at the rate of £20 8s. yearly, which includes principal, interest, law charges, and surveyors' fees, and at the end of the 14 years the house is his own at a ground rent of £2 12s. His bare rental would be £14 19s., so that an extra payment of £5 9s. per year for 14 years, plus rates and taxes, represents the difference between limited proprietorship and continued rental at the end of that term.

The scheme is being carried out by the Artisans', Labourers, and General Dwellings' Company (Limited). The Company's progress may be indicated by the growth of its share capital:—In 1867 it was £500; 1868, £1,800; 1869, £3,000; 1870, £6,000; 1871, £18,500; 1872, £52,000; 1873, £112,196. The nominal capital of the Company is £250,000. There is a deposit branch for the residents, where sums of not less than 5s. can be placed at the rate £5 per cent. interest, with power to withdraw at from 3 to 21 days' notice, according to the amount. These deposits are secured by the lands and houses of the Company. That this advantage is appreciated is clear from the fact that in 1867 the deposits amounted to £800; in 1873, £135,800. The houses are taken long before finished, in some cases before the foundation is laid. There are at the present time 1,200 applicants for houses yet to be erected. It is gratifying to know that all this can be done on pure business principles, and paying fair dividends on the capital invested. The dividend has been 7½ per cent., but at the novel request of the shareholders has been reduced to 6 per cent.

On Saturday, July 18, 1874, there was an important meeting on the estate, of the shareholders, tenants, and general friends, presided

over by Lord Shaftesbury, supported by the Premier, Earl Granville, Earl Manvers, Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., Hon. W. Ashley, Thomas Hughes, Esq., Sir W. Lawson, M.P., and many others.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, who was loudly cheered, said, in opening the proceedings, that he felt gratified in being able to tell them that the new township with which his name was connected had been built in a little over twelve months. In 1872, when he saw the place first, it was a complete waste, and now it was a well-regulated little town. After briefly touching upon the projected operations of the company, his lordship said that it was a remarkable and congratulatory fact that in this township of 1,200 houses and 8,000 inhabitants, they would not have a single public-house; and he was glad to be reminded of the fact that there would not be a pawn-shop either. He trusted he should never see the time when the inhabitants of the estate would need a pawn-shop. He had every reason to believe that the sanitary arrangements of the houses were all that could be desired, and he hoped that that important consideration would never be lost sight of. They had Day Schools, Sunday Schools, Penny Banks, a Post Office, and he was glad to see a Band of Hope. And all this had been done quietly and most harmoniously, and by-and-by many of them would be the owners of their several houses. The demand for these houses had been so great that there were still nearly 2,000 applicants for them, and fresh applications were coming in every day. The success of the scheme could best be judged by the dividends which the company had been able to pay. They were aware that the estates of the company were not confined to London. They owned estates in Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, on the same model as this. For the first three years they were able to pay seven and a half per cent. dividend. They now, at the request of the shareholders themselves, paid only six per cent. dividend. By means of this success they had been able to purchase another estate at Harrow of 74 acres, by which 1,000 working people would be accommodated. The cost of these two estates would be not much under £1,000,000. This showed what the working classes could do if they wished. He found that the wages of the working classes of England could not be less than £400,000,000 a year. At least one quarter of that was spent upon deleterious commodities, or, at all events, upon things that man could very well do without. Honest thrift was that which would make the working classes independent and self-reliant in adversity, and powerful, orderly, and loyal in prosperity. Though he felt satisfied all this advice was unnecessary to the inhabitants of the Shaftesbury Park Estate, still he would urge the wisdom of every one of them endeavouring to be of sound mind and of sound body. With the

possession of these two things and a good sound house, he believed they and theirs might very well manage to be happy.

Lord Shaftesbury, who was frequently interrupted by cheers, was then succeeded by

Mr. DISRAELI, who said—I am most gratified at having the opportunity of expressing my sympathy with you for all that you have done, but I can assure you that at this moment what I feel is stronger than sympathy. I am surprised at what you have done. I have never in my life been more astonished than by what I have unexpectedly witnessed—to see this city, as it were, rising in the desert. The experiment which you have made is successful, and therefore can hardly be called an experiment, but in its success is involved the triumph of moral efforts for the alleviation of the great body of the people. I have always thought the best security for civilisation is in the dwellings of the people, and upon becoming and appropriate dwellings more than anything else depends the improvement of mankind. It is the real nursery of all domestic virtues, and without a becoming home the exercise of those virtues is impossible. I cannot doubt that this great improvement will spread. I view it myself with great interest, because it is a subject at this moment which engages and occupies the attention of Parliament; but you have in a certain degree, it may be said, solved the question which perplexes Parliaments; and from what you have done, from what I have seen here to-day, and from what I shall learn more of in a short time from information that has been promised me, I see the possibility of your attaining results which may guide the councils of the country in that enterprise which, I believe, is impending over this country, of, on a great scale, attempting to improve the dwellings of the great body of the people. It must be to Lord Shaftesbury a subject of great delight to witness these results of his efforts. He has devoted his existence to the noblest of all causes—to improve the great body of his countrymen. He is attempting to accomplish that result, by many means and in many manners. Sometimes, I have myself, but in a very humble manner, attempted to support him. But I am sure that throughout his life—memorable now for its great exertions which never can be forgotten by this nation—he has accomplished nothing which hereafter will be to him the source of purer and nobler gratification than the conviction that by his energy and exertions in this matter he has established in this country a movement which can no longer be repressed, and which will end, I am confident, in the great improvement of the people, and in the amelioration of their condition. (Loud applause.)

Earl GRANVILLE, who was loudly cheered, said—Ladies and

Gentlemen, I should prefer to say "My friends," but it appears to me that that phrase was used so properly and justly by the noble earl at my side, that there is something of presumption in any one else, however friendly his feelings may be, using the appellation. Now with regard to my making a speech, I heard Lord Shaftesbury deprecate the system to-day, and one of the most distinguished orators of the House of Lords told me that before he tried there he asked the advice of one who had already achieved great success. The advice given was, "Whatever you do, not only don't talk of that which you don't know, but don't talk of that which those whom you address suppose you don't know." I admit, and with great shame and regret, that up to a very few hours ago I knew very little about Shafteshury Park. It is only a few hours ago that Lord Shaftesbury asked me to come here, as I understood him, to see some of the houses on this estate. I certainly was anxious and curious to see the houses, as this is a matter in which I always felt the greatest interest. My own interests being connected with commerce and the working classes, I was anxious to see the practical illustration of those things of which the noble earl has talked so eloquently in another place. I listened with the greatest interest to-day to what he said. After he had said a few eloquent words, he apologised to you for being obliged to inflict the dry and disagreeable business of the association upon you. I own my heart sank within me. I thought he was going to tell of hopes departed and expectations which had failed, and, above all, of finances in that state that it was necessary to carry the hat round. (Laughter.) But I must say that of all the melancholy tales I ever heard this was the least melancholy. I believe you could not find a society of exalted speculators in the hottest part of the City of London that would not be cheered by the statement presented. I heartily congratulate you on the success of your undertaking, not only on account of the gratifying fact that 8,000 persons have, in a few months, been located in this desirable district, but on account of the bright example you have set to your fellow-workmen everywhere else, and having given so strong a hint, as Mr. Disraeli said you have given, even to the Legislature, as to the line they should follow in this matter. I can hardly allude to the Prime Minister without saying this—I only wish to darkly allude to certain political changes that take place from time to time in this country. We have just heard the triumphant conqueror; you are now hearing one, and possibly will hear some more miserable victims of that conqueror, and it must be satisfactory to you, notwithstanding our personal and political disputes, how heartily we join in objects of a national character; and I doubt whether it is possible to find an object of a more national character than that of which the association has given such evident proofs to-day.

Mr. T. Hughes, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, and Mr. Evelyn Ashley then addressed the meeting, after which Dr. BAXTER LANGLEY proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Disraeli and Earl Granville, together with the other gentlemen, for attending.

Mr. DISRAELI said, in reply—I beg to return you thanks on my own part and on the part of the other gentlemen for the compliment you have paid us. We appreciate it. I trust when we pay you another visit we shall find several new streets built. (Cheers.)

After an interval for refreshment, the Earl of Shaftesbury presented prizes to the tenants for the best displays of flowers in their windows, and further addresses were delivered.

Inspector McCrory, of the V Division, was on the ground with a staff of constables, whose duties, however, were entirely confined to contributing to the comfort of the visitors, and were most efficiently performed.

Ragged School Union.

THE monthly meeting of the Managing Committee was held on July 10th.

The receipts for June were reported to be £402; and the payments to be £335.

Quarterly grants for June amounting to £128 18s. 4d. were ordered to be paid to twenty-three Institutions.

£10 voted to Kingsland School towards salary of teacher of Evening School, &c. £5 voted to Menotti Street Mission and Schools towards securing the building for Mission purposes. £100 voted to George Yard School, Whitechapel, towards the cost of leasing, repairing, &c., of additional premises. £50 voted to Hatfield Street School towards liquidation of debts. £22 voted to School in Hertford towards the support of teacher and building a classroom. £16 voted to Buross Street towards the renting of additional rooms for Sunday School purposes. £200 paid to the Central Shoeblacks towards the cost of the new home on Saffron Hill. £20 paid to Moore Street School towards liquidation of debt, and £10 to Thrawl Street School towards the extinction of debt.

Facts and Scraps.

BUROSS STREET, COMMERCIAL ROAD.—At the Children's Morning Service, a special collection was made towards the Sunday Hospital Fund. Special hymns were chosen, and an address suitable to the occasion was delivered, and appeared to make a deep impression. On opening the box it was found to contain the following:—27 pennies, 45 halfpennies, 34 farthings. Number in attendance, 131 children; this, with 7s. 6d. in silver, contributed by the teachers, made a total of 12s. 6½d.

EXETER BUILDINGS, CHELSEA.—We are glad to learn that a scholar of this Ragged School has received two medals from the Royal Humane Society for saving lives on two occasions. Does not such a noble boy bid fair to become a noble man?

TOWNSEND STREET, OLD KENT ROAD.—This schoolroom was until recently only opened on Sunday evening. But we are glad to learn that the committee have acceded to the wish of the Sunday School Union, and granted its use on Lord's day morning and afternoon for an ordinary Sunday School.

CENTRAL SHOEBLACK HOME.—On June 25, a meeting of the friends of the Central Ragged School Shoeblack Society was held, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, to inaugurate the opening of the New Home for the boys on Saffron Hill. The secretary read a statement, from which it appeared that the contract for the building and fittings had cost £3,800. The Society, since its commencement in 1851, had employed more than 3,000 boys, who had earned the large sum of £46,638. During the last year the average number of boys in the Home had been 83, and their total earnings for the year had been £3,215. There were eight other Shoeblack Societies in London, employing about 340 boys, whose earnings for the year had been £11,880. One-fourth of the boys' earnings was retained each day by the society to meet current expenses. There had been an accumulation of this fund over the expenditure amounting to £1,500, and this sum had been given towards the cost of the building, and the committee had already raised £1,680 by subscriptions, including £200 from the Ragged School Union and £100 from the Reformatory Union.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—A member of the School Board thus writes:—"You are doubtless aware of the decision of the School Board for London to let their schools for purposes of religious education on the Sabbath, and also the terms resolved upon. These terms, whilst only giving an adequate return for the outlay, are certainly higher than our Sunday or Ragged Schools have been in the habit of paying, but in considering them it must be remembered that the charge is not per child, as we should understand it, but really per 9 square feet. By the end of September we shall have nearly 90 new schools in working order spread over London, the great majority in the very poorest districts."

Our readers will find the terms for hiring these buildings at *ante* p. 166. But they can only be hired as *Sunday* Schools, and not for Ragged

Churches, Bands of Hope, Mothers' Meetings, and those other agencies which are doing so much for the social weal of the poor.

KENSINGTON PEOPLE'S MISSION.—We sometimes hear that the working classes are "conspicuous by their absence" from public worship. Though this is partly true, yet there is another and a brighter phase of this question. For, abstract working men from the teachers' list of Ragged and Sunday Schools, and they would speedily have to close their doors. A pleasing fact to show how much the labouring classes appreciate any real—not mere patronising—efforts for their evangelisation was reported by Major F. C. Kirby on opening the above Mission Hall. He said that "the new room would have cost £100 if the work had been given to a contractor; but the men connected with the Mission had nearly built the whole of it with voluntary labour after the regular hours of work, thus reducing the expenditure to £47 10s. 9d."

PEABODY LODGING HOUSES.—The report of the Peabody Trustees shows that they had expended up to the close of last year in land and buildings £300,000. The number of families now in residence in the trustees' buildings is 882, occupying 1,875 rooms. The average rent per room is 1s. 10d. per week, and the average weekly earnings of the head of each family is about £1 3s. 1d. The expenditure during the year, for land and buildings, exceeds £39,000, and the income of the trusts amounts to £12,973 5s. 8d. The net income derived from the buildings is about 2½ per cent. per annum upon the outlay.

Notices of Meetings.

FIELD LANE, SAFFRON HILL.

The Thirty-second Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the large-room of the Institution, Saffron Hill, Farringdon Road, on June 17, and there was a very large muster of friends. The Earl of Shaftesbury occupied the chair.

After prayer, Mr. Drysdale read the Report, from which we learn that the committee look back with thankfulness on the thirty years of Christian labour, which, though inadequate to the demand, has yet effected so much amelioration of the condition of the masses. Following the order of the Report, we come to the Penny Bank, in which we find 667 depositors, who paid in during the year £259 odd, and drew out £236, leaving, with previous residue, a balance of over £109. The broken food department had fed between 200 and 300 children daily, or had given nearly 90,000 meals in the whole during the year. The mothers' and girls' Sewing Classes had been attended by an average of 50 women and 150 girls. There had been admitted during the year, into the Servants' Training Home, 113 young and mostly destitute girls, 105 of whom had been sent to service after training. Last year they made 380 garments, while 14 had received prizes of one pound and upwards, for retaining their situations with good character for periods varying from one to three years. The Male and Female Refuges for Homeless People with a character, had admitted 286 men and 582 women, who received 12,290 lodgings, and for 413 of whom the Institution

had provided in various ways. Last year 25,783 persons attended the Ragged Church, averaging 500 to the congregation; two-thirds of whom were men. The Certified Industrial Schools contain at present 58 boys and 38 girls, the former of whom are taught tailoring, boot-making, and wood-chopping, and the latter prepared for domestic service; and with scarcely an exception these orphan or forsaken children of the gutter have well repaid, by their conduct in employment, the labour and expense bestowed upon them. The average attendance on Sundays at the Bible Schools had been—morning 150, afternoon 250, and in the evening 600, and on Friday evenings 350. These constituted the main items of the Report, while, for want of time, the Maternal Society, the Parents' and Children's Services, the Band of Hope, the Youth's Institute, the Lending Library, the Working Lads' Evening Recreation department, the Sick Visiting department, the Christmas Dinner, and the Winter Relief Fund, &c., were passed over.

The financial statement showed that £5,837 11s. 5d. had been contributed towards the work of the various agencies during the past year, and that the balance in hand was £723 3s. 10d.

GRAY'S YARD, OXFORD STREET.

At the annual meeting of this school the Earl of Shaftesbury presided.

The Report stated that a Children's Church, or simple service, is held on Sunday mornings; attendance, 35. At the Sunday Afternoon School for girls, boys, and infants, the average attendance was — scholars, 130; teachers, 21. The Sunday Evening School for girls, boys, and infants, has suffered severely from lack of teachers, and, possessing a large attendance of children, assistance is much needed. The Infant Class was never more prosperous, the children having brought Bibles and hymn books voluntarily, and asked permission to be allowed to learn texts. Average attendance—scholars, 204; teachers, 23. Elder Girls' Bible Classes are held on Sunday afternoon and evening. The teacher of the Evening Class has had the happiness of seeing several of her girls declare themselves on the Lord's side, and others seriously impressed. Evening attendance, 25. In the Penny Bank the deposits for 1873 were £124 2s. 11¾d., that is £14 17s. 4d. in excess of the amount in 1872. A Band of Hope has monthly meetings. There are about sixty members, who have each subscribed to a pledge of total abstinence. A large Sewing Class is conducted by some friends every Monday evening during the winter months. The report is of a most encouraging character. There are 138 names on the books, with an average attendance of 50 to 60. The Ragged Church attracts 400 casuals on Sunday mornings. From the preceding notices it will be plainly seen that the social and missionary objects of such an Institution are quite outside the scope of the Board Schools. The condition and necessities of the children who live near the school have called into existence the various agencies which have for their object the cultivation of religious habits, of thrift, sobriety, industry, and cleanliness, but the great purpose of all the work is to win the little ones for Jesus.

The meeting was addressed by the Hon. Sir G. Pigott, Sir R.W. Carden, Rev. Dr. D. Fraser, Dr. Gordon, and T. H. Lovell.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

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The following Subscriptions and Donations have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th June, 1874, to the 19th of July, 1874, inclusive :—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Alexander, Mrs.	3	3	0	Hunter, Mrs. (deceased)	2	0	0
Aylmer, Col. F. V.	2	2	0	Kinnaird, the Lord	2	0	0
Bunbury, Sir C. J. F.	2	2	0	Laurent, John, Esq.	3	3	0
Beckles, Miss	0	10	6	Lewis, R. E., Esq.	2	0	0
Casenove, P., Esq.	5	0	0	Mackness, Mrs.	0	7	6
Cook, Miss B., per Mr. Benham	1	1	0	Marshall, Miss	0	10	0
Cooper, Miss, per Mrs. Reade	0	4	0	M. R. W.	1	1	0
Cotgreave, Miss	1	0	0	Pym, Mrs. Gertrude	5	0	0
Cunningham, Mrs.	2	2	0	Rowley, Sir C. R., Bart.	2	2	0
Dixon, Rev. A.	10	0	0	Rauch, R., Esq.	1	1	0
Dixon, Mrs.	2	0	0	Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Dyer, Mrs.	4	0	0	Shepherd, Rev. R.	0	5	0
E. E. B. (for teaching the authorised version of the Bible only)	40	0	0	Thompson, Miss	1	1	0
Fortescue, The Earl	1	0	0	Tyler, George, Esq.	1	1	0
Fothergill, Miss	2	0	0	Trustees of St. John's, Walbrook	2	2	0
Grenside, C., Esq., per Mrs. Reade	0	10	0	Walford, Mrs.	2	10	0
Henley, Miss	0	5	0	Waugh, Miss	1	1	0
Henderson, Mrs.	2	0	0	Wilkie, Miss	5	5	0
Holyar, Miss	1	0	0	Wilkinson, Miss	1	1	0
				Wilkinson, Miss F.	1	1	0
W. Jaques, Esq., Legacy of					£134	12	7

Special Fund.

Burton Street (Trust).

L. C. G.	0	2	6
Walker, Mrs. Archibald	0	19	10

Ragged Church and Chapel Union.

Stewart, Mrs. M.	0	10	0

Weary Workers.

Aldrich, Captain	0	10	0	Churchill, Miss E. A.	0	10	0
Bennington, Mrs.	0	10	6	Henderson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Callcott, Miss	0	10	0	Prior, Miss	1	10	0
Churchill, Miss	0	10	0				

Excursion Fund.

Albery, Edwin, Esq.	2	2	0	"For a Day in the Country"	0	1	0
Anonymous	0	1	0	G. M.	0	4	0
Blantyre, Lord	5	0	0	Howard, Lady Julia	0	5	0
Bennington, Mrs.	0	10	6	Henderson, Mrs.	1	0	0
B. E. S.	5	5	0	H. R. H.	0	10	0
Casenove, P., Esq.	5	0	0	J. H. E.	0	10	0
Callcott, Miss	0	10	0	Lancaster, Miss	1	0	0
Cornell, S., Esq.	2	2	0	Lean, V. S., Esq.	1	0	0
Churchill, Miss	0	10	0	Millar, W. Esq.	3	0	0
Churchill, Miss E. A.	0	10	0	Prior, Miss	1	10	0
Dixon, Rev. A.	2	0	0	Stewart, Mrs. M.	1	0	0
Dunbar, Miss P. D.	0	10	0	Tate, Miss	0	5	0
Ewart, Miss	1	0	0	Tattersall, J., Esq.	2	2	0
E. J. S.	0	5	0	West, Mr. C.	0	5	0
E. L. D.	0	5	0	Wilkie, Miss	1	1	0

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NOTICE—1874.—MR. CONGREVE will be absent from London all the month of June. He will see Patients again at his residence (*on his usual mornings only*), from TUESDAY, JULY 7th, to SATURDAY, JULY 25th inclusive, after which he cannot be consulted personally until THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st.

The above arrangement applies only to personal consultations. Letters of advice as usual. Address—COOMBE LODGE, PECKHAM; and Medicine and Instructions will be forwarded without delay.

New Patients should send full statements of their cases (see page 32 of Mr. Congreve's treatise), and Patients who have written before should always name the date of their last letter.

REMARKALBE CASE of A LADY at SOUTHEND.

The following letter from the patient's husband will best relate the benefits she received—(the name of the lady is Mrs. SAML. HAWTREE, of SOUTHEND, ESSEX) :—

"Six years ago my wife complained of failing health. Her lungs were much affected. During the first four years of her illness she was attended at different times by four physicians, but became much weaker. *The muscles of the arms wasted nearly all away. Her breathing became so difficult, especially at night, that persons in the street could hear her, and no sleep could be got in the house.*

"At the end of the four years, when at her worst, the physician told me '*her lungs were like a honeycomb,*' and that she was '*past human aid.*' She was sinking, and so weak I could not think of bringing her to you, I therefore procured your medicine through the chemist at Rochford. She took it at bed-time, and *for the first time in twelve months I was not once disturbed with the distressing sounds.* She persevered for six months, and was so altered in appearance and health that *those only who had known her, before and after, could believe the extraordinary change she had undergone.* Winter brought on some symptoms of the old complaint, but the Balsam has again removed it. By the blessing of God *it has raised her from the very verge of the grave.*

"I may add that before taking your medicine the expectoration was very bad, and in the first month she brought up large quantities of the most corrupt matter, but after this it ceased; also before taking it she was unable to get out at all, but *but now she can walk and ride well for miles in the open air—even in winter.*

"You are at liberty to make any use of this letter.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, SAML. HAWTREE."

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